United Nations A/59/483/Add.3

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 December 2004

Original: English

Fifty-ninth session
Agenda item 85 (c)

Sustainable development: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Report of the Second Committee*

Rapporteur: Mr. Azanaw Tadesse **Abreha** (Ethiopia)

I. Introduction

1. The Second Committee held a substantive debate on agenda item 85 (see A/59/483, para. 2). Action on sub-item (c) was taken at the 18th, 27th, 32nd and 36th meetings, on 27 October and 5, 15 and 24 November 2004. An account of the Committee's consideration of the sub-item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/59/SR.18, 27, 32 and 36).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.7 and A/C.2/59/L.31

2. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, Japan and Mexico, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/59/L.7), which read as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "*Recalling* its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and 58/214 of 23 December 2003 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001,

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in eight parts, under the symbol A/59/483 and Add.1-7.

04-64918 (E) 181204

"*Reiterating* that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

"*Recognizing* the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to reduce vulnerability to natural disasters, especially in developing countries, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

"*Expressing its deep concern* at the increasing number and scale of natural disasters within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

"*Emphasizing* that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

"*Stressing* the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, in particular on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"2. *Welcomes* the ongoing preparatory process for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which is to be held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005;

"3. "*Notes with appreciation* the generous pledge made by the Government of Japan to cover costs of the World Conference, and invites the international community to make voluntary contributions to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in that event;

"4. *Reiterates* its invitation to Member States, all United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to participate actively in the World Conference;

"5. *Encourages* major groups, as identified in the Agenda 21, to contribute further to and actively participate in the World Conference, according to the rules of procedure agreed upon by its Preparatory Committee;

"6. *Stresses* the importance of identifying, assessing and managing risks prior to the occurrence of disasters, for which it is necessary to combine the efforts at all levels of the development, humanitarian, scientific and environmental communities, as well as the importance of integrating disaster reduction into development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

"7. *Stresses also* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities

through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, access to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

"8. *Calls upon* Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction and to strengthen them where they already exist, urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy in order to ensure such support;

"9. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in his capacity as Chair of the Inter-agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to review annually the work carried out by its working groups in order to ensure their effective contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Strategy;

"10. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

"11. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the Strategy and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

"13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

3. At the 32nd meeting, on 15 November, the Facilitator, Stefano Toscano (Switzerland), on behalf of the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" (A/C.2/59/L.31), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.7. In introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairperson orally corrected it by deleting, in the ninth preambular paragraph, the words "preparations for" after the words "working group on" and by adding the word "Hyogo" after the word "Kobe" in operative paragraph 3.

4. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.31.

5. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Chile and Peru.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.31, as orally corrected (see para. 16, draft resolution I).

7. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.31, draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.7 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.8 and A/C.2/59/L.23

8. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, and Mexico introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño Phenomenon" (A/C.2/59/L.23), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001 and 57/255 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

"*Noting* that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and that it can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential seriously to affect humankind,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

"*Noting* that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation'), in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular the section entitled 'International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon';

"2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction which led to the establishment of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and to its opening in February 2003, and encourages those parties to continue their efforts for the advancement of the Centre;

"3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the development of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño

Phenomenon, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

"4. *Encourages* the Centre to strengthen its links, as appropriate, with national meteorological and hydrological services of the Latin American region, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, as well as with other relevant regional and global organizations that study climate, such as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, the Drought Monitoring Centre and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research, and other relevant centres, as appropriate, in order to ensure the effective and efficient use of the available resources;

"5. *Underscores* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events and emphasizes the need further to develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular in developing countries;

"6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

9. At the 27th meeting, on 5 November, the Facilitator, Stefano Toscano (Switzerland), on behalf of the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon" (A/C.2/59/L.23), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.8.

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.23 (see para. 16, draft resolution II).

11. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.23, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.8 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

C. Draft resolutions A/C.2/59/L.11 and A/C.2/59/L.45

12. At the 18th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of Qatar, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" (A/C.2/59/L.11), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolution 58/215 of 23 December 2003,

"*Taking into account* the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on

Sustainable Development, adopted by the World Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

"*Recognizing* the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capacity to cope with disaster risks,

"*Noting* that the global environment continues to suffer degradation, adding to economic and social vulnerabilities, in particular in developing countries,

"*Taking into account* the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable countries, are affected by severe natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and extreme weather events such as heat waves, severe droughts, floods and storms, and the El Niño/La Niña events, which have global reach,

"*Recognizing* that the impact of natural disasters upon increasingly vulnerable countries is becoming a significant obstacle to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, in particular those relating to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability,

"*Expressing deep concern* at the substantial increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters and their increasing economic, social and environmental impact, in particular on developing countries, and also expressing concern that this trend is likely to continue in the future,

"*Taking into account* that extreme weather events and associated natural disasters and their reduction must be dealt with in a coherent and effective manner,

"*Expressing* its deep concern at the enormous negative impact of severe natural hazards, including extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, which continues to hinder social and economic progress, in particular in developing countries,

"*Recognizing* that the small island developing States are located in the most vulnerable regions in the world in terms of the intensity and frequency of natural and environmental disasters and their increasing impact, and that they face disproportionately great economic, social and environmental consequences,

"*Stressing* that national authorities need to undertake disaster preparedness and mitigation efforts, in particular through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, so as to enhance the resilience of populations to disasters and reduce risks to them, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources,

"*Noting* the need for international cooperation to increase the capacity of countries to respond to the negative impacts of all natural hazards, including

extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, particularly in developing countries,

"1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, in particular the separate section on natural disasters and vulnerability;

"2. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue its work in this regard;

"3. *Stresses* the importance of enforcement by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction of the implementation of relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation on natural disasters and vulnerability, as well as the results of the review of the Yokohama Strategy for a Safer World: Guidelines for Natural Disaster Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation and other relevant processes, bearing in mind the vital importance of addressing the adverse effects of natural disasters in the efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals;

"4. *Emphasizes* that the World Conference on Disaster Reduction should take concrete steps towards reducing the risk and vulnerabilities of all countries, in particular developing countries, relating to disasters, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance, as well as through the strengthening or establishment of institutional mechanisms, including at the regional level, where appropriate;

"5. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to strengthen capacity-building in the most vulnerable regions, to enable them to address the socio-economic factors that increase vulnerability, and encourages the international community to provide effective assistance to developing countries in this regard;

"6. *Also encourages* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to enhance the coordination on the promotion of disaster reduction as well as to make available to the relevant United Nations entities information on options for natural disaster reduction, including severe natural hazards and extreme weather-related disasters and vulnerabilities;

"7. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in those developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

"8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution in a separate section of his report on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and decides to consider the issue of natural disasters and vulnerability at that session, under the sub-item 'International Strategy for Disaster Reduction' of the item entitled 'Sustainable development'."

13. At the 36th meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, Ewa Anzorge (Poland), introduced a draft resolution entitled "Natural disasters and vulnerability" (A/C.2/59/L.45), which was submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.11. In introducing the draft resolution, the Vice-Chairperson orally corrected it by replacing, in preambular paragraph 10, the words "including disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies" with the words "including disaster preparedness, mitigation"; by inserting the words "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" after the words "strengthening of" in operative paragraph 4; by inserting, in operative paragraph 5, the words "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" after the word "respective"; and, in operative paragraph 7, by deleting the words "resources and expertise" and re-inserting them after the word "available".

14. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.45, as orally corrected (see para. 16, draft resolution III).

15. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/59/L.45, draft resolution A/C.2/58/L.11 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

16. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
International strategy for disaster reduction

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/22 B of 20 December 1994, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/219 of 22 December 1999, 56/195 of 21 December 2001, 57/256 of 20 December 2002 and 58/214 of 23 December 2003 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2001/35 of 26 July 2001, and taking into due consideration its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Recalling also the inclusion of the item entitled "disaster management and vulnerability" in the multi-year programme of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development,[1]

Reiterating that, although natural disasters damage the social and economic infrastructure of all countries, the long-term consequences of natural disasters are especially severe for developing countries and hamper the achievement of their sustainable development,

Recognizing the urgent need to further develop and make use of the existing scientific and technical knowledge to build resilience to natural disasters, and emphasizing the need for developing countries to have access to technology so as to tackle natural disasters effectively,

Expressing its deep concern at the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact within recent years, which have resulted in massive loss of life and long-term negative social, economic and environmental consequences for vulnerable societies throughout the world, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters and to build and further strengthen community capability to cope with disaster risks,

Emphasizing that disaster reduction, including reducing vulnerability to natural disasters, is an important element that contributes to the achievement of sustainable development,

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 9* (E/2003/29), chap. I, sect. A.

Stressing the importance of advancing the implementation of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2] and its relevant provisions on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management,

Noting the ongoing work of all the working groups established by the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, namely the working group on climate change and disaster risk reduction, the working group on disaster reduction in Africa, the working group on risk, vulnerability and disaster impact assessment and the working group on the World Conference on Disaster Reduction,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;[3]

2. *Invites* Governments and relevant international organizations to consider disaster risk assessment as an integral component of development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

3. *Welcomes* the work of the ongoing preparatory process for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, which is to be held in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the generous pledge made by the Government of Japan to cover costs of the World Conference, and welcomes the voluntary contributions already made to facilitate the participation of representatives of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in that event, and invites those States that have not yet done so to make such voluntary contributions;

5. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States, all United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies and other relevant intergovernmental agencies and organizations, in particular the members of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to participate actively in the World Conference;

6. *Encourages* major groups, as identified in Agenda 21,[4] to contribute further to and actively participate in the World Conference, according to the rules of procedure agreed upon by its Preparatory Committee;

7. *Stresses* the importance of close cooperation and coordination between the relevant institutions, in particular within the United Nations system and with other relevant international organizations, in both the preparation of and follow-up to the World Conference, within their mandate and taking into account their comparative advantages and the need to avoid any duplication of work;

8. *Also stresses* that continued cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners, as appropriate, are considered essential to address effectively the impact of natural disasters;

---

[2] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/59/228.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions adopted by the Conference, resolution 1, annex II.

9. *Recognizes* the importance of linking disaster risk management with regional frameworks, as appropriate, such as with the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to address issues of poverty eradication and sustainable development;

10. *Also recognizes* the importance of integrating a gender perspective as well as of engaging women in the design and implementation of all phases of disaster management, particularly in the disaster reduction stage;

11. *Stresses* the importance of identifying, assessing and managing risks prior to the occurrence of disasters, for which it is necessary to combine the efforts at all levels of the development, humanitarian, scientific and environmental communities, as well as the importance of integrating disaster reduction, as appropriate, into development plans and poverty eradication programmes;

12. *Also stresses* the need to foster better understanding and knowledge of the causes of disasters, as well as to build and strengthen coping capacities through, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of experiences and technical knowledge, access to relevant data and information and the strengthening of institutional arrangements, including community-based organizations;

13. *Recognizes* the importance of early warning as an essential element of disaster reduction, recommends the implementation of the outcome of the Second International Conference on Early Warning, held in Bonn, Germany, from 16 to 18 October 2003, and takes note of further work done in this regard, including the establishment of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning[5] in Bonn;

14. *Calls upon* Governments to establish national platforms or focal points for disaster reduction, encourages the platforms to share relevant information on standards and practices, encourages Governments to strengthen platforms where they already exist, urges the United Nations system to provide appropriate support for those mechanisms, and invites the Secretary-General to strengthen the regional outreach of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy in order to ensure such support;

15. *Requests* the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, in his capacity as Chairman of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction, to continue reviewing annually the work carried out by its working groups in order to ensure their effective contribution to the attainment of the objectives of the Strategy;

16. *Expresses its appreciation* to those countries that have provided financial support for the activities of the Strategy by making voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction;

17. *Encourages* the international community to provide the necessary financial resources to the Trust Fund for the Strategy and to provide the necessary scientific, technical, human and other resources to ensure adequate support for the activities of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy and the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction and its working groups;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to allocate adequate financial and administrative resources, within existing resources, for the effective functioning of the inter-agency secretariat for the Strategy;

---

[5] A/CONF.206/PC(II)/4, para. 14 (ix).

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, in particular on the outcome of the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

Draft resolution II
International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/200 of 18 December 1997, 53/185 of 15 December 1998, 54/220 of 22 December 1999, 55/197 of 20 December 2000, 56/194 of 21 December 2001 and 57/255 of 20 December 2002 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1999/46 of 28 July 1999, 1999/63 of 30 July 1999 and 2000/33 of 28 July 2000,

Noting that the El Niño phenomenon has a recurring character and that it can lead to extensive natural hazards with the potential seriously to affect humankind,

Reaffirming the importance of developing strategies at the national, subregional, regional and international levels that aim to prevent, mitigate and repair the damage caused by natural disasters that result from the El Niño phenomenon,

Noting that technological developments and international cooperation have enhanced the capabilities for the prediction of the El Niño phenomenon and thereby the potential for the preventive actions that may be taken to reduce its negative impacts,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[2] in particular paragraph 37 (i) thereof,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[3] in particular the section entitled "International cooperation to reduce the impact of the El Niño phenomenon";

2. *Welcomes* the efforts of the Government of Ecuador, the World Meteorological Organization and the inter-agency secretariat for the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction which led to the establishment of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon at Guayaquil, Ecuador, and to its opening in February 2003, and encourages those parties to continue their efforts for the advancement of the Centre;

3. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General and the relevant United Nations organs, funds and programmes, in particular those taking part in the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the international community to adopt, as appropriate, the necessary measures to support the development of the International Centre for the Study of the El Niño Phenomenon, and invites the international community to provide scientific, technical and financial assistance and cooperation

---

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[3] A/59/228.

for this purpose, as well as to strengthen, as appropriate, other centres devoted to the study of the El Niño phenomenon;

4. *Encourages* the Centre to strengthen its links, as appropriate, with national meteorological and hydrological services of the Latin American region, the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific, the Inter-American Institute for Global Change Research and the International Research Institute for Climate Prediction, as well as with other relevant regional and global organizations that study climate, such as the European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, the African Centre of Meteorological Applications for Development, the Drought Monitoring Centre and the Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research, and other relevant centres, as appropriate, in order to ensure the effective and efficient use of the available resources;

5. *Underscores* the importance of maintaining the El Niño/Southern Oscillation observation system, continuing research into extreme weather events, improving forecasting skills and developing appropriate policies for reducing the impact of the El Niño phenomenon and other extreme weather events and emphasizes the need further to develop and strengthen these institutional capacities in all countries, in particular in developing countries;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session on the implementation of the present resolution, under the item entitled "Sustainable development".

Draft resolution III
Natural disasters and vulnerability

The General Assembly,

Recalling its decision 57/547 of 20 December 2002 and its resolution 58/215 of 23 December 2003,

Taking into account the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[1] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,[2] adopted by the World Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,

Recognizing the need to continue to develop an understanding of, and to address, socio-economic activities that exacerbate the vulnerability of societies to natural disasters, to build and further strengthen community capacity to cope with disaster risks and to enhance resilience against hazards associated with disasters,

Noting that the global environment continues to suffer degradation, adding to economic and social vulnerabilities, in particular in developing countries,

Taking into account the various ways and forms in which all countries, in particular the more vulnerable countries, are affected by severe natural hazards such as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions and such extreme weather events as heat waves, severe droughts, floods and storms, and the El Niño/La Niña events, which have global reach,

Recognizing that the impact of natural disasters upon vulnerable countries is, among others, a significant obstacle to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] in particular those relating to poverty eradication and environmental sustainability,

Expressing deep concern at the recent increases in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events and associated natural disasters in some regions of the world and their substantial economic, social and environmental impacts, in particular upon developing countries in those regions,

Taking into account that extreme weather events and associated natural disasters and their reduction must be dealt with in a coherent and effective manner,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing negative impact of severe natural hazards, including earthquakes, extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, which continues to hinder social and economic progress, in particular in developing countries,

Stressing the need to develop and implement risk-reduction strategies, including disaster preparedness, mitigation and early warning systems at all levels, and to integrate them, where appropriate, into national development plans, in particular through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster

---

[1] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[2] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

Reduction, so as to enhance the resilience of populations to disasters and reduce the risks to them, their livelihoods, the social and economic infrastructure and environmental resources,

Recognizing that the development of stronger institutions, mechanisms and capacities, including at the community level, that can systematically build resilience to hazards and disasters is essential to reducing the risks and vulnerability of population to disasters,

Noting the need for international cooperation to increase the capacity of countries to respond to the negative impacts of all natural hazards, including earthquakes, extreme weather events and associated natural disasters, particularly in developing countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[4] in particular section II, on natural disasters and vulnerability;

2. *Urges* the international community to continue to address ways and means, including through cooperation and technical assistance, to reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters, including those caused by extreme weather events, in particular in vulnerable developing countries, through the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, and encourages the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue its work in this regard;

3. *Stresses* the importance for the World Conference on Disaster Reduction to conclude the review of the Yokohama Strategy and its plan of action, with a view to updating the guiding framework on disaster reduction for the twenty-first century, and to identify specific activities aimed at ensuring the implementation of relevant provisions of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development[2] on vulnerability, risk assessment and disaster management, bearing in mind the vital importance of addressing the adverse effects of natural disasters in efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[3]

4. *Emphasizes* that the World Conference on Disaster Reduction should, within its mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 58/214 of 23 December 2003, make concrete recommendations to reduce the risks and vulnerabilities of all countries, in particular developing countries, in relation to disasters, including through the provision of technical and financial assistance, as well as through the strengthening of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction national platforms for disaster reduction or the establishment of institutional mechanisms, including at the regional level, where appropriate;

5. *Encourages* Governments, through their respective International Strategy for Disaster Reduction national platforms and national focal points for disaster reduction, in cooperation with the United Nations system and other stakeholders, to strengthen capacity-building in the most vulnerable regions, to enable them to address the socio-economic factors that increase vulnerability, and to develop measures that will enable them to prepare for and cope with natural disasters, including those associated with earthquakes and extreme weather events, and

[4] A/59/228.

encourages the international community to provide effective assistance to developing countries in this regard;

6. *Also encourages* the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction to continue to enhance the coordination of activities to promote disaster reduction and to make available to the relevant United Nations entities information on options for natural disaster reduction, including severe natural hazards and extreme weather-related disasters and vulnerabilities;

7. *Stresses* the importance of close cooperation and coordination among Governments, the United Nations system, other organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and other partners as appropriate, taking into account the need for the development of disaster management strategies, including the effective establishment of early warning systems, where appropriate, while taking advantage of all available resources and expertise for that purpose;

8. *Encourages* the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[5] and the parties to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[6] to continue to address the adverse effects of climate change, especially in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and also encourages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to continue to assess the adverse effects of climate change on the socio-economic and natural disaster reduction systems of developing countries;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session on the implementation of the present resolution in a separate section of his report on the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction,[4] and decides to consider the issue of natural disasters and vulnerability at that session, under the sub-item "International Strategy for Disaster Reduction" of the item entitled "Sustainable development".

---

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

[6] FCCC/CP/1997/7/Add.1, decision 1/CP.3, annex.